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SUBJECT: ANNUAL ANTI-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP) REPORT
FOR CROATIA

REF: STATE 2731

Sensitive but unclassified; please handle accordingly.

¶1. (SBU) Post is pleased to submit the Annual Anti-Trafficking in Persons Report for 2007. Croatia has previously been ranked as a Tier Two country. As detailed below, Post believes Croatia has made successful efforts to meet Tier One requirements under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, and Post strongly recommends raising Croatia to Tier One this year. The Government of Croatia has proactively and consistently worked to address and combat trafficking in persons and has achieved all benchmarks established in annual USG TIP action plans. The Government of Croatia has demonstrated strong political will and responsiveness to every issue the USG has raised, in particular to intensify investigative efforts, resulting in an increased number of convicted traffickers. Through the passage of the New Law on Foreigners the GOC has continued to strengthen its legal framework while simultaneously ensuring the protection of foreign victims of TIP. Croatia further strengthened the already institutionalized victim identification process and continued implementing professional training and public awareness campaigns. We are pleased with the efforts undertaken by the GOC to meet Tier One requirements.

¶A. Croatia is primarily a transit country for women and girls trafficked to other parts of Europe for prostitution. To a lesser extent it is a destination and a country of origin for trafficked women. The trafficking route is primarily from Southeastern Europe through Croatia to the European Union. The government reported that 15 trafficking victims were identified in 2007; nine victims were Croatians, three were Serbians, two were Bosnians, and one was a citizen of Moldova. One of the female victims was a minor from Bosnia. Two of the male victims, one from Bosnia and one from Croatia, were held by labor traffickers. Since 2002, 69 victims have been identified (2002 ? eight victims, 2003 ? eight victims, 2004 ? 19 victims, 2005 ? six victims, 2006 ? 13 victims, 2007 ? 15 victims). During the year the government reported that the victims cooperated with police investigations and NGOs. Recent trends indicated that 20- to 30-year-old women were most at risk of being trafficked. Anecdotal information indicated that transnational and domestic organized crime groups were

responsible for trafficking. Victims were subject to violence, intimidation, withholding of documents, and threats by traffickers.

¶B. The GOC did not report any significant route changes, however it did note that a new trend is that Croatia is increasingly becoming a country of origin. (Nine identified victims in 2007 were from Croatia.) Croatia is principally a country of transit for victims coming from Southeastern Europe through Croatia to the European Union. The International Organization of Migration (IOM) reported continued seasonal rotation of international prostitutes from Bosnia to and from the Dalmatian Coast during the tourist season. (In 2007 the Croatian police reported routine monitoring and screening of this population group.) The GOC, which includes all relevant Government Ministries and the Government Office for Human Rights, and the Ministry of Interior, shows a strong political commitment and willingness to fight trafficking in persons. Anecdotal information indicated that international organized crime groups, local groups, and travel or marriage agencies were responsible for trafficking. Victims usually travel with legal documents, although some are falsified. Unofficial sources indicate that trafficked victims are mostly recruited through fraud and promises of well-paying jobs abroad. The methods of recruitment are numerous and diverse: abduction, extortion, false promises, fictitious marriages, bogus adoption agencies, seduction, the issuance of false certificates required for student visas, business offers, etc. Victims are subject to violence, intimidation, withholding of documents, and threats by traffickers. The majority of victims, both foreign and national, reported poor living and working conditions and suffered physical and/or sexual abuse in the process of trafficking.

¶C. The lead agency for monitoring anti-trafficking efforts is the Government Office of Human Rights; the head of which also serves as GOC Anti-Trafficking Coordinator. In addition, the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Justice are also actively involved in anti-trafficking efforts.

¶D. There are no specific limitations on the government's ability to address the problem of trafficking in persons. Funding is more than adequate and the GOC budget dedicated for TIP activities in 2007 was 9,787,150 HRK (1.9 million USD). A backlog in the judicial system plus the lack of a Criminal TIP Provision prior to 2004 had previously hampered the GOC's ability to convict traffickers. This changed, however, with the 2004 adoption of the Criminal TIP Provision 175 in the Croatian Penal Code. Progress towards the reduction of judicial backlog has occurred. This factor, together with the high priority the GOC has attached to TIP, has resulted in a doubling of the number of convictions from the past year. (See Section 2)

¶E. The GOC systematically monitors anti-trafficking efforts through its Anti-Trafficking Coordinator ? Head of the Office of Human Rights ? who is responsible for coordinating all GOC activities and developing an annual operation plan. The GOC's National Committee for the Suppression of Trafficking consists of members from relevant ministries, as well as representatives from the State Prosecutor's Office and NGOs. The committee has a smaller working group, which includes representatives of NGOs, and meets regularly to discuss specific TIP cases and programs. TIP-related information is made available publicly through the Office for Human Rights website, as well as via domestic and regional seminars. The GOC also cooperates closely with the Southeastern European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) and Interpol on investigations and prosecutions.

12. (SBU) INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKERS:

1A. Croatia has a provision in the Penal Code which specifically prohibits trafficking in persons, both for sexual and non sexual purposes. The Criminal Provision 175 in the Croatian penal Code titled Human Trafficking and Slavery enacted in 2004 prescribes penalties for labor exploitation such as forced labor, bonded labor and involuntary servitude. In June of 2006 a paragraph was introduced in article 175 that allows prosecution of persons who knowingly use services of the trafficked victims, with sentences ranging from 3 months to 3 years. Apart from this TIP specific legislation, the Penal Code includes provisions providing penalties for related criminal acts such as international prostitution, illegal transfer of persons across the state border and pandering. In addition to criminal procedures against traffickers, victims can also initiate civil litigation against and request compensation from traffickers.

1B. Penalties for trafficking in persons provide for imprisonment from one to ten years. In cases where a TIP crime is committed against a minor the minimum sentence is five years. If the crime is committed within a criminal group or against a large number of people or cause the death of one or more persons, penalties provide for a minimum of five years to long term imprisonment. The minimum sentence for rape is three years, while penalties for rape and forcible sexual assault are generally as stringent as the penalties for trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. The provisions in the Penal code cover both internal and external (transnational) forms of trafficking.

During the reporting period 20 perpetrators of Trafficking in Persons were identified by authorities, 16 of whom were Croatian citizens, three of whom were citizens of Bosnia, and one individual with no declared citizenship. In 2007 the GOC reported 10 persons were sentenced under TIP Provision 175, doubling the number of convictions from the previous year's report. Eight

traffickers received final convictions and two traffickers have verdicts that are still pending final appeal. Out of the eight perpetrators with final convictions, two received suspended sentences and are currently serving four years parole and three years parole respectively. The six remaining traffickers convicted of TIP are all serving jail time, three defendants were convicted to one year and four months each, two people received one year convictions, and one person received a three year conviction.

Under Croatian law, the courts can award compensation to victims under the criminal procedure. In cases where the criminal court does not provide compensation, the victim also has the legal right to pursue compensation under the Law on Civil Procedures.

1C. The prescribed and imposed penalties for trafficking for labor exploitation such as bonded labor and involuntary servitude ranges between one and ten years in prison. These laws are applied externally as well. The law provides for criminal punishment for labor recruiters who engage in recruitment of laborers using knowingly fraudulent or deceptive officers that result in workers being trafficked. There are also laws punishing employers or labor agents who confiscate workers' passports or travel documents, switch contracts without the worker's consent as a means to keep the worker in a state of service, or withhold payment of salaries. Trafficking in Persons for the purposes of labor is typically prosecuted under Criminal Provision 175 of the Croatian Penal Code 'titled Human Trafficking and Slavery', thus resulting in more stringent sentences. In 2007 criminal charges were brought against two Croatian perpetrators for Labor Trafficking. Apart from the Criminal Provision 175, labor violations can also be prosecuted under the relevant

Labor Law and the new Law on Foreigners, which came into effect in February 2008. As legal "written contracts" between an employee and an employer are obligatory in Croatia, under applicable Labor Law the lack of a contract also can technically be considered a misdemeanor and fined up to 30,000 Kuna (6,122 USD).

D. Penalties for rape and forcible sexual assault are generally as stringent as the penalties for trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. Sentences for rape range from 1-10 years, and have a minimum sentence of 3 years if the crime results in the death of the victim.

E. Prostitution is not legal in Croatia. Activities of prostitutes are treated as misdemeanors, while pandering is a criminal act. The activities of the brothel owner/operator, clients, pimps and enforcers are criminalized and the laws are generally enforced. Knowingly using the services of a TIP Victim is considered a crime in Croatia and is punishable with sentences ranging from 3 months to 3 years.

F. In January 2008 the government reported that 15 trafficking victims were identified in 2007; nine victims were Croatians, three were Serbians, two were Bosnians, and one was a citizen of Moldova. One of the victims was a minor. Since 2002, 69 victims have been identified. During the year the government reported that the victims cooperated with police investigations and NGOs. During 2007 20 perpetrators of TIP were placed under investigation. 18 were under investigation for trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and two perpetrators were under investigation for labor trafficking.

G. Throughout 2007 the government implemented educational workshops for its officials, including social workers, diplomatic and consular staff, judges, prosecutors, police, and students. During the year the Ministry of Interior trained a total of 1,254 police officers. Of the total number trained, 580 police officers were trained through various programs of the Police Academy. In cooperation with the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) 40 participants ? officers dealing with a wider range of criminal activities such as minor offenders, organized crime, sex crime and border police - were trained in two seminars. The goal of these trainings was to strengthen

the team work of these agencies in combating trafficking in persons. Another 110 students were trained on TIP as part of undergraduate Studies in Criminology, and so were 320 border police officers and 110 members of the traffic police. Apart from the aforementioned Police Academy programs, within the Ministry of Interior both the Criminal Police and the Border Administration, (in cooperation with relevant government's agencies, civil society and international organizations) facilitated TIP educational training of 674 police officers. In cooperation with the Slovenian government a joint training for 26 police personnel was also organized in neighboring Slovenia. The Ministry of Interior also organized a three day interagency training with representatives of domestic NGOs and social services, the International Organization for Migration and the State's Attorney's Office. The training, which involved 50 participants, was aimed at strengthening cooperation of the various agencies in the identification and protection of victims.

Throughout the year, 50 investigative judges and prosecutors attended three regional seminars focused on suppression of TIP. Croatian Consular Officers have received training for TIP screening as part of their visa issuance procedures. The government continued previously established efforts to educate diplomatic and consular staff about suppression of TIP as part of the Diplomatic Academy's standard curriculum targeting 50 diplomatic and consular officials. In cooperation with the NGO

Organization for Integrity and Prosperity (OIP) the government organized two seminars for 65 social workers and 54 professionals who work in family centers across Croatia. Ten members of the local government in Virovitica- Podravska County also received specialized TIP training targeting their specific county. The Ministry of Education and Science organized trainings for primary school teachers across Croatia. The Government in cooperation with the semi-autonomous Human Rights Center organized seminars on trafficking in persons for over 60 University students from the Law faculty in Zagreb. In February the Government's Human Rights Office organized the first training focusing solely on trafficking in persons for ten Croatian Military officers who will then instruct Croatian and foreign troops during their regular preparations for deployment abroad to participate in international peacekeeping missions. The Government Office of Human Rights arranged with the Ministry of Defense to include such trainings in bi-annual preparations for future peacekeepers who are already receiving basic information about TIP as a part of their UN approved curriculum.

11H. Throughout 2007, Croatia continued intensive regional cooperation efforts to investigate organizations believed to be involved in trafficking of human beings for sexual exploitation. Regional cooperative efforts remained very high.

As part of the on-going 3,506,000 HRK (701,200 USD) EU Cards Twinning Project focusing on Trafficking in Human Beings, the Croatian police, in conjunction with the Government Office of Human Rights, Ministries of Interior, Health, Social Care and state prosecutors, participants from the German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation, the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights and the National TIP Coordinator, continued to cooperate with both short- and long-term TIP advisors from Germany and Austria. The fifteen-month-long project (03-30-2007 to 06-30-2008) is specifically designed to strengthen the capacity of national institutions across Croatia in combating TIP and to further assist the GOC in its EU wide efforts to protect the victims of trafficking in persons, paying special attention to children. In particular, this in-depth regional project has seven main components:

- A complete review of existing legislation, structures, capacities and procedures to combat TIP.
- Recommendations from both Germany and Austria.
- Pilot testing of recommendations.
- Further development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in TIP.
- Development and implementation of a TIP training

program.

- A comprehensive and complete media campaign focusing on clients to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts.
- Establishment of quality assurance system.

The main fields of action of these seven areas are designed specifically to further influence Croatian criminal law, police measures, investigation methods, and assistance measures such as identification, protection of victims and victim support.

Croatian police participated in an international investigation with Swiss police codenamed "Operation Blonde" that resulted in the identification of eight alleged perpetrators and seven trafficking victims. Police also cooperated with law enforcement officials in Slovenia and Serbia throughout the investigation.

In March 2007 officers from the Organized Crime Department met with their Slovenian counterparts and civil society groups to discuss improving regional cooperation.

The Interior Ministry reported active GOC and police participation on two regional International Center for

Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) anti-trafficking projects focusing on trans-regional referral mechanisms and TIP data collection.

Police also had an active role in the Mirage working group from the SECI regional center and reported strong cooperation with EUROPOL and Interpol in combating trafficking in persons.

In one highly successful operation cooperative efforts of police and prosecutors from Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia and Montenegro resulted in the arrest of 25 persons in four countries.

(SBU) FOR USG ONLY, NOT FOR PUBLICATION: Croatian police and prosecutors and a TIP task force advised by ICITAP and an EU Adviser from Spain, traveled to Serbia to discuss strategy and methodology with officials from both countries, compared essential witness statements and official records. In December 2007, as a result of a one-year investigation, 25 persons were arrested in four countries on charges to include the following: human trafficking, smuggling of persons, illegal possession of firearms, counterfeiting of passports and identification. One subject wanted for murder from a notorious organized crime group was also apprehended attempting to enter Croatia. Two trafficking victims were identified and assisted by the police and IOM, and the actual sale of one victim was prevented when a Croatian police officer intercepted a call that involved negotiations for the sale of a female victim. (Due to the on-going investigation, these details should not be made public.)

In April 2007 Croatia took over the presidency of the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI Regional Forum) in Skopje, where it has worked to pursue regional cooperation in combating TIP among the member states of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. Croatia participates in the Anti-Trafficking Unit at the OSCE in Vienna. Through its membership in the United Nation's Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) the Government of Croatia has actively worked on projects to promote the exchange of operational capacity to disrupt human trafficking in the Balkans.

In February, 2008, in cooperation with 14 countries, Croatia ratified the Council of Europe's "Convention against Human Trafficking". The convention, ratified by Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Georgia, Malta, Moldova, Norway, Romania and Slovakia, reinforces the prevention of trafficking and is designed to strengthen the prosecution of traffickers and protect the human rights and dignity of the victims. In October 2007 Croatia also signed the Council of Europe's Convention on the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse.

I. The Croatian Constitution prohibits extradition of its own nationals. Croatia had no requests for TIP extradition in 2007.

J. There is no evidence of government's involvement in trafficking on either local or institutional levels and there is no evidence of government's tolerance of trafficking.

K. Not applicable. There is no evidence of government officials being involved in any form of TIP crimes.

L. There have been no occurrences of international peacekeepers from Croatia engaged in, or facilitating trafficking or exploiting victims of such trafficking. (See paragraph I in the Prevention Section.)

M. The government has not identified child sex tourism as a problem, nor has it reported any prosecutions or

extraditions of foreign pedophiles in 2007. Post does not believe child sex tourism is a problem in Croatia to date. The Croatian Penal Code contains provisions that punish pedophilia. Official statistics for pedophilia in 2007 will not be made available until mid way through 2008. In 2006, however, 129 verdicts against perpetrators of sexual crimes committed against children were passed. These cases, however, are not trafficking cases. Of the 15 trafficking victims identified in 2007, one of the female victims was a minor from Bosnia.

13. (SBU) PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS

1A. The new Law on Foreigners came into effect in Croatia on January 1, 2008. This law clearly defines the rights of foreign TIP victims, which was previously done via government instruction. The new law encompasses a number of aspects that will directly impact the fight against trafficking in persons. The law establishes a mandatory reflection period of 30 days for potential adult victims of TIP, and a 90 day reflection period for minor victims of TIP. The law specifies different forms of assistance which should be offered to foreign victims, including safe accommodation, financial support, education and training, and assistance with employment. The law further mandates that the Ministry of Interior will be responsible for future repatriation of TIP victims. (In practice, in many cases the victims are referred to the International Organization of Migration (IOM) who then works in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the Border Police to ensure safe repatriation of the victim. In other cases, however, the Ministry of Interior has repatriated victims autonomously of the IOM or in conjunction with the Croatian Red Cross, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or other NGOs.) Under the Law on Foreigners victims are to be provided with temporary and renewable residency permits, initially for a period ranging from six months to one year, which can be extended based on a subsequent needs assessment.

A New Law on Social Assistance was adopted by the government and forwarded to the parliament for consideration, which further defines procedures and scope of assistance for domestic victims of trafficking in persons. A witness protection law provides for government protection when a witness' life, health, freedom, or property is threatened. In addition, Croatia ratified the Council of Europe "Convention against Human Trafficking", which further introduces a period of at least 30 days for recovery and reflection by the victims with the possibility of obtaining a temporary residence permit which is not subject to agreement by the victim to cooperate with law enforcement authorities.

1B. The Government of Croatia has two specifically designated TIP Shelters, one for adults and one for children, in addition to two alternative shelters that assist women of domestic violence and former prostitutes. During the reporting period, five victims were assisted through these facilities. TIP shelters are funded by the Ministry of Health and Social Care and run by NGOs. The Government of Croatia spent 408,000 HRK (82,424 USD) funding TIP shelters in 2007. Victims of trafficking are provided with legal, medical and psychological services.

1C. In 2007 the Government of Croatia provided 750,250 HRK (150,050 USD) to support NGOs directly involved in combating TIP. Another 140,000 HRK (28,000 USD) were provided via a grant to the NGO 'Women's Room' to conduct a study analyzing the scope of Trafficking in Persons in Croatia. An apartment was provided to the NGO 'Rosa' for the reintegration of prostitutes, and study visits to the Netherlands to examine the work of the National Rapporteur on TIP were provided to the coordinator of the Petra Women's Network as 'in-kind' assistance.

1D. Croatia has a national referral system employing 'mobile teams' through which the victims are identified

and referred for assistance. The GOC has protocols in place for identification and treatment of trafficked victims: 'Protocol on Detection and Care for Victims of trafficking in Persons', 'Instructions for Interviewing Illegal Migrants and Other Persons who are Suspected Victims of Trafficking' and 'Rules and Procedures in Shelters'. Special procedures (laws and protocols) are used for minor victims of trafficking. Border police and other police officers are instructed in all protocols. Social workers also have special instructions on how to recognize and treat victims of trafficking. A trained social worker has been appointed in each of Croatia's 21 counties to assist TIP victims.

1E. Not applicable.

1F. The rights of the victims were generally respected. Trafficking victims were neither detained nor jailed. Victims in Croatia are not prosecuted for violations of other laws such as those governing immigration or prostitution. The GOC did not deport or punish victims of trafficking. While the law criminalizes international prostitution and unauthorized (illegal) border crossings, it exempts trafficking victims from prosecution. Similarly, the law allows authorities to charge foreign prostitutes with a misdemeanor and initiate deportation proceedings if they do not fulfill legal requirements for their stay in Croatia, but exempts trafficking victims from deportation and detention.

1G. Regulation of victims? legal status in Croatia is not conditioned upon the victims' cooperation with the prosecution. TIP victims are entitled to file both civil and criminal lawsuits. In addition, according to the Croatian legislation, victims have the right to press charges themselves and may continue to prosecute a case that has been dropped by the State Prosecutor.

1H. Victims of trafficking are provided with legal, medical and psychological services. In the reporting period Croatia assisted 15 victims of and offered assistance: legal, social and medical to all of them. Out of 15 victims, five accepted accommodation in shelters. Other victims expressed their willingness to return to their place of residence. Before the victims returned to their places of origin, they were placed in reception centers, and minor victims received temporary assistance through the social welfare system. One NGO (Organization for integrity and Prosperity, or OIP) runs a shelter for victims that are funded by the GOC. Three NGOs run the SOS helpline (OIP, Rosa, Women's Association Vukovar) and two NGOs (Korak and Rosa) provide for victims assistance offering alternative accommodation. The Croatian Red Cross operates temporary reception centers for TIP and a shelter for adult victims of TIP.

1I. Croatia has a national referral system, employing "mobile teams", through which victims are identified and referred to assistance. The GOC has protocols in place for the identification and treatment of trafficking victims: 'Protocol on Detection and Care for Victims of Trafficking in Persons', 'Instructions for Interviewing Illegal Migrants and Other Persons Who are Suspected Victims of Trafficking' and 'Rules and Procedures in Shelters'. Special procedures (Laws and Protocols) are used for minor victims of trafficking. Border police and other police officers are instructed in all protocols through a standardized curriculum at the police academy. Social workers have special instructions on how to recognize and treat victims of trafficking. In addition,

social workers have been appointed in each county to deal specifically with TIP victims who are minors. Consular officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have also received intensive TIP training.

1J. The government provides assistance, such as medical aid, shelter, or financial help to its nationals who are

repatriated as victims of trafficking.

¶K. Assistance to victims of trafficking is being offered in cooperation with Croatian Government officials by the following organizations: Red Cross, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Organization for Integrity and Prosperity (OIP), Rosa, Korak, and Women's Association of Vukovar. NGOs reported excellent cooperation with the Government Office for Human Rights, Ministry of Interior and local police officers. One NGO (Organization for Integrity and Prosperity (OIP) runs a shelter for victims that is funded by the GOC and IOM. Three NGOs run the SOS helpline for victims (OIP, ROSA, Women's Association of Vukovar), and two NGOs (Korak and Rosa) provide for victim's assistance, offering alternative accommodation. The Croatian Red Cross operates temporary reception centers for TIP victims and a shelter for adult victims of TIP. In 2007 750,250 HRK (150,050 USD) was given by the Government directly to support TIP centered NGOs. 282,000 HRK (56,400 USD) was specifically reserved for TIP victim assistance shelters (5 victims utilized these shelters in 2007), and 430,250 HRK (86,050 USD) was used for public awareness campaigns.

¶4. (SBU) PREVENTION

¶A. The government of Croatia recognizes trafficking as a problem in the country and takes proactive measures to combat TIP through a strong legal framework, investigation and prosecution of traffickers, protection and assistance to victims, and active promotion of wide spread prevention efforts.

¶B. In 2007 there have been numerous high profile government-run anti-trafficking information or educational campaigns. As part of the EU Cards Twining Project, post is particularly encouraged by a nation wide demand reduction media campaign targeting clients that is currently in its final stages prior to release, with endorsements by a major public sport figure to air in April and May prior to the Euro-Soccer Cup. This campaign will encompass TV spots and radio ads, and is being developed in conjunction with NGOs to utilize regional contacts. The theme is "This could be your sister, mother, aunt, daughter" and 25,000 Euro (37,250 USD) has been specifically reserved by the GOC for this public awareness campaign targeting the men or clients. (See Section 2 -Investigation and Prosecution of Traffickers, paragraph H)

As in previous years, the GOC continued to air two high quality TIP TV spots airing on both national and local TV stations around the country. Ads have been placed on trams and at train stations, and billboards that advertise the government sponsored help line have been placed around the country. In October, Croatia commemorated the first annual EU Anti-Trafficking Day with information booths, cultural events, posters, flyers, and brochures designed to raise public awareness of TIP across Croatia. The GOC sponsored an anti-trafficking movie night at Zagreb based cinemas with free admission to the public at large. The GOC, in conjunction with Care International and several NGOs, produced and distributed the documentary film 'Price of Life' nationwide to schools, cinemas, aired the movie on national TV and distributed it to four local TV stations across the country. While impossible to quantify the exact number of viewers reached, the movie had over 54 showings across the country. T-shirts, posters and flyers were also distributed to promote anti-trafficking campaigns. In addition, as part of its anti-trafficking information campaign, flyers have been posted at airports, border and checkpoints along roads in four languages (Croatian, Macedonian, Romanian, and Ukrainian) to raise public awareness. Croatia further commemorated the International Day for the Abolition of

Slavery on December 2nd. (See paragraph I Section -

Protection and Assistance to Victims for further information on prevention campaigns and trainings.)

¶C. The government, the IOM (International Organization for Migration), and NGOs organized numerous and widespread TIP related trainings (see section 2, paragraph g) and all the above reported that cooperation was strong.

¶D. Instructions for interviewing illegal migrants and other persons who are suspected victims of trafficking are routinely used by border and immigration police and other police officers to screen potential trafficking victims along the borders. Croatian Consular Officers have received training for TIP screening as part of their visa issuance procedures. In addition, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Ministry of Interior, and the British Government have produced and distributed a user friendly brochure and checklist specifically designed for Border Police to recognize the different indicators of smuggling vs. trafficking in persons. (This was a part of the project under which 27 specially trained border police officers trained another 493 of their colleagues to detect potential victims.) All border police in the country have been provided with a copy of this checklist.

¶E. The Deputy Prime Minister, who is also responsible for social affairs and human rights, acts as the chairperson of the National Committee for Suppression of Trafficking reflecting the high level of attention that the government pays to combating against trafficking in persons. The head of the Government Office of Human Rights is the point of contact that coordinates all GOC activities and develops an annual operational plan. GOC's National Committee for Suppression of Trafficking consisting of members from relevant ministries that meet periodically. The Government of Croatia has a public corruption task force and a National Program for Suppression of Corruption.

¶F. The head of the office of Human Rights is the point of contact that coordinates all GOC activities and develops an annual TIP operational plan. The GOC's National Committee for Suppression of Trafficking consists of members from relevant ministries and NGOs and meets periodically. The National Committee for Suppression of Trafficking is responsible for drafting the National Action Plan for Combating TIP. In addition, the National Committee has an operational team that meets monthly to assess the current status of TIP in Croatia. The GOC has a National Program for Combating Trafficking in Persons which includes a strategic document covering years 2005-2008; Operational Plan for 2005, 2006 and 2007; and a National Plan for Suppression of trafficking in Children for 2005-2007.

¶G. See section on 'Prevention', paragraph b. and section on 'Investigation and Prosecution of Traffickers', paragraph H.

¶H. Not applicable

¶I. To date there have been no occurrences of international peacekeepers from Croatia engaged in, or facilitating trafficking or exploiting victims of such trafficking. In February 2008, the GOC organized initial training sessions for 10 military officers to serve as anti-TIP troop trainers. Following the completion of initial training, these military officers will begin to implement obligatory training for all international peacekeeping forces being stationed abroad. This anti-TIP education will be incorporated into the standard curriculum of all military troops preparing for deployment abroad.

¶5. (SBU) Points of Contact

¶A. Embassy points of contact are Political Officer Douglas A. Fisk Phone: 385-1-661-2341, fax: 385-1-661-2147 and Political Assistant Metka Jelenc Phone: 385-1-661-2353. In preparing the report, 04 PolOff spent

approximately 30 hours and Pol Assistant spent approximately 20 hours.

Bradtke